

## THE DAILY CRITIC

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 28, 1890.

AN OPPORTUNITY.

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APPROVED, UNANIMOUSLY.

The appointment by President Harrison of Messrs. A. T. Britton and A. A. Wilson as World's Fair Commissioners of the District of Columbia has been commented upon approvingly at home and abroad. Two better men could not have been selected. And in the appointment of Mr. E. K. Kirtz Johnson as the alternate of Colonel Britton and of Mr. Dorsey Craggett as the alternate of Mr. Wilson the President earned the thanks of this entire community.

NEITHER ASS NOR DEVIL.

The Detroit Journal, in commenting upon the speech lately made by Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson at Boston, refers to him by saying: "A certain animal named Balaam that an angel stood in the way." But Clarkson is not an ass. He is as wise as a serpent. And he is really one of the best of fellows—we have been informed. Indeed, he is—so we have been told—an angel, or, at least, three quarters angel; and, upon actual observation of him, we have learned, definitely, that he has neither long ears nor a slit hoof.

GOOD NEWS.

Governor James E. Campbell of Ohio, was at New York last Monday. In an interview with a reporter of the Star newspaper he stated that he had not the slightest doubt that the Democrats would carry the State at the election to be held next November, and that a majority of the Congressional delegation returned at that election would be Democratic. One of the reasons he gave for this belief was that there are more Republican farmers in Ohio disatisfied with the tariff than the tariff can draw away from the Democratic party.

BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

In 1880 the aggregate of the bonded and floating debts of the Eastern States was \$1,370,183.75, and in 1890, \$29,974,666.20, a decrease of \$11,296,117.43.

In 1880 the aggregate of the same debts of the Middle States was \$44,885,293.21, and in 1890, \$43,498,412.71, a decrease of \$1,386,880.50.

In 1880 the aggregate of the same debts of the Southern States was \$105,639,041.87, and in 1890, \$107,616,077.69, a decrease of \$2,026,935.82.

In 1880 the aggregate of the same debts of the Western States was \$51,544,181.80, and in 1890, \$47,591,261.81, a decrease of \$3,952,919.99.

In 1880 the total of these debts of the four geographical divisions specified was \$288,139,265.60, and in 1890, \$29,974,666.20, a decrease of \$258,164,599.40.

It will be observed by the reader of these figures that the Southern States have reduced their debts in greater amount, by more than a million and a half of dollars, than the aggregate reduction made by the Eastern, Middle and Western States.

In the Western States debt-reduction has progressed slowly, and the Eastern and Middle States have been of about equal industry at this commendable work.

On this subject the Census Office says that the States have reduced their debts to this extent mainly by applying to the redemption of their obligations the revenue not needed for current expenses. In a few cases, however, a reduction of the debt has been effected by the enforced redemption of obligations at a discount, but the amount of reduction through this process cannot be ascertained until the statements of outstanding debts in those States have been compared with the cash receipts and expenditures on account of the debt for the same period and the differences noted. It is expected that the comparison will be completed in time for publication with the full statement of National and State finances.

HERE AT WASHINGTON.

The proposition that Congress shall appropriate \$500,000 for the purpose of completing the Grant monument in Riverside Park is in lurid illustration of the meanness and impudence of the city of New York. The country can hardly have forgotten the circumstances attending the death of General Grant and the controversy that ensued relative to the location of his tomb. Almost the entire country, North, South, East and West, united in declaring that Washington should be the burial place.

Everybody excepting a few gentlemen in New York recognized the propriety of the arrangement. Washington, the National Capital, the city of parks and monuments and memorial structures, should be the spot. But at that moment New York stepped in with its usual noisy arrogance and claimed the honor for herself. There was nothing that New York did not promise, and there were no words which could fully express her scorn for the pretensions of other places. So the funeral was held in New York, the procession drew together a vast concourse to watch the caisson, the triumphal and the rest of the Metropolitan staff in whose interests the politicians

had been so industrious; and there the matter dropped. The remains were conveyed to Riverside Park and deposited in a squat structure resembling in its general shape a cross between an overgrown stool and a Georgia smoke-house, and there they lie to this day. Five years have passed and not only have the windy promises of the New Yorkers been left unfulfilled, but there is no longer a pretense anywhere of a belief or a hope of their fulfillment. In deed, the bill entered by Mr. Flower in a formal acknowledgment of the discreditable situation.

We sincerely hope that this offensive exhibition of cheek will be properly rebuked by Congress. By all means let the illustrious character and the incalculable services of Grant be commemorated in suitable fashion by the country he saved by his genius and devotion; but let the monument be set up here, upon soil which is the common property of the Union—not in a city which traded on the hero's funeral and took its promises next day.

GIVE THE SOUTH A CHANCE.

Harper's Weekly seems to be surprised by the discovery that there is some disposition at the South to do away with existing political methods and to embrace a plan that will secure an absolutely independent expression of public sentiment.

The truth is that this disposition is stronger among the better classes of the Southern States than with any other people in the country. What the Republicans of the North cannot or will not understand is that the South labors under a condition of things which makes such a consummation impracticable, not to say impossible.

As things stand now the people have no choice except as between two evils. The solid white line, with its tyranny of management, its rule of ring and caucus, its repression of the growing differences on questions of economy and State, is an evil confessed by all. Furthermore, it is an evil which grows more oppressive and intolerable with each succeeding year. But it is not and never can be so abhorrent as the regime of the negro and the carpet-bagger, under which, twenty years ago, the South was given over to misrule and spoliation and disorder, and there are no imaginable circumstances under which the whites could be made to return to a regime—none, at least, that is possible in a free country.

Nevertheless, there is in every quarter of the South where intelligent and thoughtful people dwell, an earnest and genuine desire to depart into new and better methods, and to throw off forever the despotism of the machines. If Senator Hoar and Mr. Cabot Lodge would, instead of devising schemes for subjecting the Southern whites to what they rightly believe to be the danger of negro domination, propose a plan by which the evils of ignorant and corrupt voting might be absolutely prevented, they would be promoting useful and patriotic ends. These gentlemen have, in their own State of Massachusetts, an election law which does all this. Why do they not propose it for the country at large? Northern States have found it desirable to enact laws under which the ignorant cannot vote at all, and the vicious and purchasable cannot find a market for their votes. Why is it that these reformers, so zealous for peace and purity at home, cannot bring themselves to feel a similar solicitude for the nation as a whole? If Massachusetts and Rhode Island needed the protection of the Australian system, do not Alabama and South Carolina need it still more?

Of course, there would be opposition to even this kind of a national law in certain quarters, but it would proceed from the few who are the beneficiaries of the existing system, and not from the masses of the people. The latter are praying for a state of things in which they can, without danger of still worse evils, resume the proud privilege of independent political action. The causes which divide men on questions of policy in other parts of the country are in active operation at the South as well. Large districts of Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia are rapidly developing into great mining and manufacturing communities. Within a few years they will be the centres of this kind of production, opulent and populous beyond any present conception, if left to the processes of a natural and peaceful growth. Take a vote among the participants in this magnificent industrial development, including the Northern Democrat, and see how many voices will be raised in favor of election laws that will plunge these districts into turmoil and disorder and check the splendid march of progress!

There can be but one result of the national election laws that has been proposed, and that is a return to all the worst horrors of the reconstruction era. And the men who force the issue on the South will be held responsible by the awakened conscience and enlightened judgment of the country. They have protected themselves at home from the ignorant and vicious ballot of the imported criminal and pauper. Public sentiment will want to know why they refused to protect the South from the equally ignorant and vicious ballot of the native negro.

PERTINENT OR IMPERTINENT?

The press of the country is indignant and is venting its indignation in loud outcries against Hon. Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the Census.

"Have Superintendent Porter and his associates of the Census Bureau gone crazy?" asks the almost frenzied Star of New York.

"Do they imagine," continues the Star, now at the white heat of indignation, "that there is no limit to the patient endurance of the people of this country? Do they think they can carry their nefarious schemes without let or hindrance?"

And thus the chorus runs. Pray, Blanche and Sweetheart, little dogs and all—they bark at Superintendent Porter. They snarl upon their haunches, they wag their heads, open wide their mouths and howl at him as if he were a whole lot of hell-bellied beasts set loose to clamp their claws on his heels and to tear at his heels and to tear at his heels.

It does seem that, in a country like this which is swarming with warriors who didn't get a chance to fight in 1861-65, but who are tremendously anxious to do so now, an uprising of the Apaches in Arizona ought to be suppressed by volunteers. Such fighting should be as efficient as the fighting of the Apaches in Arizona ought to be suppressed by volunteers.

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yearning desire to tear him into small pieces and feast upon his remains.

And what is all this about? What has Superintendent Porter done? Of what terrible offense has he been guilty? For the purpose of ascertaining this, The Critic sent a representative to him this morning, and asked him to confess—to give up the secret of his crime to the public through our columns.

It appears that the Superintendent has instructed the Census Enumerators to ask the following questions:

22. Whether the male is suffering from acute or chronic disease with the name of the disease and length of time afflicted.

23. Whether defective in mind, sight, hearing or speech, or whether crippled, maimed or deformed, and name of defect.

24. Whether a prisoner, convict, homeless child, pauper.

25. Is the home you live in hired, or is it owned by the head or by a member of the family?

26. If owned by head or member of family, is the house free from mortgage or encumbrance?

27. If the house of the family is a farmer, or a farm which he cultivates hired, or is it owned by him or by a member of his family?

28. If owned by head or member of family, is the farm free from mortgage or encumbrance?

29. If the home or farm is not owned by head or member of family, owned, give the postoffice address of owner.

It may be said, in a general way, that these inquiries are all authorized by law, and that in making them the Superintendent is doing only his duty.

Section 17 of the act approved May 1, 1889, which provides that the inquiries of the present census-takers shall be the same as those contained in § 2094, Revised Statutes, and the report of the Census Committee, of which Mr. Garfield was chairman, made January, 1870, will not fail to bear out in this proposition.

"These questions concerning acute or chronic diseases," says Superintendent Porter, "were asked in the tenth census, only in a much more blunt form than they are in the forthcoming one. In fact, they have been asked in some form or other in all censuses of this country from the fifth down to the present."

As to inquiries 27, 28, 29 and 30, it may be said that the Superintendent was compelled to make them by order of Congress. This order was made by the act of Congress of May 1, 1889, providing for the collection of farm-mortgage statistics, and the law was made in opposition to the advice of Superintendent Porter. On December 16, 1889, the Superintendent wrote to Senator Berry of Arkansas giving his reasons for believing that such a law should not be made, and on December 23 he wrote to Mr. Henderson of the House on the same subject, repeating and enforcing his objections to the proposed legislation.

But the bill was passed and became a law, containing a penal clause—a provision that refusal to answer any schedule question should be punished by a fine.

Now, in view of these facts, how can Superintendent Porter be blamed justly for making the inquiries complained about, even if they are impertinent? In making them he is doing his duty, and he must do that.

But the questions are not impertinent. They ought to be asked, and they ought to be answered.

The questions relating to vital statistics, if answered as they should be, will give to the Government information of great importance in many ways. Similar questions are asked by the census-takers of every civilized country, and only a perverted sense of the immovability of the person can excuse any sensible person in objecting to them.

Concerning the indebtedness inquiries it is enough to say that Congress directed that statistics concerning farm mortgages should be gathered by the current census takers, and did this in response to a demand for such information made by the farmers of the West, who are breaking down under the heavy weight of the mortgages that have been placed upon their farms. And that the information sought to be obtained by these inquiries should be obtained in this way we have no doubt.

There are some very prominent Michiganians in the city. Among them are ex-Senator R. G. Horr of Saginaw and Hon. John T. Rich of Lapeer. They are registered at the St. James. Mr. Rich was recently appointed by Governor Law to succeed Mr. Horr as a member of the House to attend the meeting of Railroad Commissioners now in progress before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Rich is now the most conspicuous candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. Since the withdrawal of Master Palmer the Hon. John T. Rich has been the only Republican member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He will probably secure the nomination without much effort unless Congressman Bliss decides to enter the race, and if that event Michigan politics would take a lively turn. Ex-Senator Horr continues to be a potent factor in Michigan.

Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Will Cumback of Greengrass, Ind., arrived here yesterday evening and was driven to the Ebbitt, where apartments had been reserved for him. "Governor Cumback looks well, and, like his son, he is a man of good sense," said a prominent Republican politician. "After registering 'Governor' Cumback went to his room, arranged his toilet and then he went to the White House, where he dined with the President. It is supposed they discussed the critical condition of the Indiana Republicans, which the desert was being served."

Hon. John A. Bingham of Ohio, who many years ago was one of the Republican leaders on the floor of the House, and was minister to Japan during Hayes' administration, came in late last evening and registered at the Ebbitt. As soon as his presence was known quite a number of prominent people called to pay their respects. The first person called was ex-Governor E. C. Campbell of Virginia, who arrived at the Ebbitt earlier in the evening. Hon. Will Cumback and Major McKinley paid their respects later in the evening.

John J. Thornton of Melbourne arrived this morning and registered at the Hotel Imperial. Mr. Thornton is been looking after some business interests affected by the tariff bill. He will remain several weeks.

E. M. Brinkley and S. Charles Pitzer, Fellows of the R. G. S. London, arrived this morning and registered at Willard's.

C. McKitt, Collector of Customs at Queen's, N. Y., came in last evening and is stopping at Willard's.

Prof. Charles H. Knott of West Virginia is stopping at the St. James.

Judge W. B. Fenneman of Louisville and Judge J. B. Spaulding of Morgantown, Ky., the Commissioners of Railroads for the

State, are at the Shoreham. They are here to attend a meeting of Railroad Commissioners now in progress before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

William J. Boyd and L. G. Call of New York, and George H. Craig of Newark, N. J., are at the Randall.

South Aker of New York, S. T. Lyman and wife of Holyoke, Mass., and Horace Brock of Haverhill, are among the arrivals at the Riggs House this morning.

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W. A. Julian of Cincinnati, James B. Doyle of Philadelphia and Mr. L. Bonham of South Carolina are at the Metropolitan.

T. C. Ferguson and Miss Ferguson of Glendale, Miss., and E. Schvab of New York are at the National.

John Barr of Detroit, James A. Norton, wife and daughter of Tiffin, Ohio, and John Callahan of Portsmouth, Va., is registered at the St. James.

H. B. Cox of Hartford, J. E. Ingraham Florida, and Miss R. M. Ingraham of St. Louis are at the Langham.

Dr. H. C. Hall of New York is spending a few days at Worley's.

"Stealing Some Very Important Thunder."

And now Wizard Edison is charged with stealing some very important thunder. Mr. Walker K. Freeman advert that he invented the incandescent electric lamp prior to August 1878, and sent a lamp to Edison as a memento of the fact.

Edison, however, did not take the lamp as a memento, but he did take it as a challenge. He did not take the lamp as a challenge, but he did take it as a challenge. He did not take the lamp as a challenge, but he did take it as a challenge.

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